

EQIP Sign-Up Information

Are You Eligible?

To determine if you may be eligible for financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), please review the “EQIP Fact Sheet” and answer the questions below. You may contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field office, for assistance in determining program eligibility.

1. Is your land currently being used to produce an agricultural commodity or livestock for food / fiber (or “*other animals as identified by the State Conservationist*” ask District Conservationist for clarification)? AND produce \$1,000 of agricultural products produced & sold, or that normally would have been sold for two out of the last five years OR IRS Schedule F form showing profit or loss from farming operations. This includes:

- Cropland
- Rangeland
- Grassland
- Pastureland
- Private, non-industrial forestland
- Other land where livestock or crops are produced

2. Will you have control of your land for the contract period (between 2 to 10 years)? Evidence may include, but is not limited to:

- Deed or other evidence of land ownership
- Lease
- Historical use of the land

3. Do you have any of the following proposed resource concerns?

- Animal waste from confined livestock operations
- Sedimentation from accelerated erosion
- Noxious weeds
- Insufficient water supply for irrigation or livestock
- Excess surface water runoff or flooding
- Pesticide or nutrient contamination of ground or surface waters
- At-risk species habitat

4. Are you willing to install or implement conservation practices to address your resource concerns? Practices may include, but are not limited to:

- Structural: cover crop, diversion, fence, grassed waterway, pasture planting, pipeline, range planting, terrace, trough, windbreaks
- Management: grazing management, brush management, pest management

5. Do you have an average adjusted gross income of \$2.5 million or less for the preceding 3 years?

Note: If your adjusted gross income exceeds \$2.5 million, you may answer "yes" if 75% of your income is from farming, ranching or forestry interests.

6. Are you able to finance the cost of the practice(s) until the EQIP cost-share reimbursement payment is authorized and/or your cost share amount of the EQIP contract?

Note: Payments are authorized when: (a) the practice is completed and meets NRCS standards & specifications; and (b) documentation of expenses has been submitted.

7. If your project is funded, will you allow the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to be informed about the location of the project and the practices to be installed to determine their possible effects on threatened or endangered plant or animal species?

Note: Consultation requirements are conducted in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

8. If you are planning to install an animal waste storage or treatment facility, are you willing to develop and implement a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP).

Note: A CNMP identifies practices to address natural resource concerns dealing with soil erosion, manure, and organic by-products and their potential impacts on water quality.

9. If you are planning to install an irrigation practice have you irrigated 2 out of the last five years?

10. Are you aware of 'Cost Recovery' &/or 'Liquidated Damages' if a contract is terminated, if no Successor-In-Interest?

Note: 'Cost Recovery' &/or 'Liquidated Damages' can be waived by the State Conservationist on a case by case basis due to circumstances beyond the producers control.

If the answers are all "yes", you may be eligible for EQIP financial assistance. Please continue on to the next section on the following page.

Producer Signature

Date

What Forms Do I Need To Submit To Apply For EQIP?

All application material listed below must be submitted to your local NRCS field office no later than the close of business of the last day of the sign-up period (see first page.)

Materials received after the deadline will not be processed until the next sign-up period. If you have questions about the forms listed, please contact NRCS or FSA.

I. CCC-1200 Conservation Program Application & Appendix

Submit the original signed and completed CCC-1200 & Appendix in hard copy or facsimile no later than the close of business of the last day of the sign-up period.

A. CCC-1200 Conservation Program Application/Contract

1. Sign and date block 7. Check the box next to "Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)."
2. Sign and date block 7a if you qualify and wish to be considered a "Limited Resource Producer".

A web-based tool is available at the following website to assist you in making a Limited Resource Producer determination. (You may also ask your local NRCS office to help you get on-line to use this tool.) Tool is available on the Caribbean Area EQIP Page.

B. Appendix to Form CCC-1200

1. Read Appendix to Form CCC-1200.
2. Page 9 – Acknowledge receipt of Appendix. Each contract participant must sign & date the Appendix.

2. Form SCIMS Applicant Information for USDA Programs

Fill in information as requested on the sheet titled "Applicant Information for USDA Programs."

3. Concurrence Letter

If the applicant is a lessee, the landowner must provide written permission to allow the installation of structural practices funded by EQIP.

4. Proof of Control of Land Submit one of the following documents as proof of control of the land:

A. Ownership

1. Copy of deed
2. Real estate tax statement
3. Land contract

B. Corporation (Legal Documentation Showing Current Stockholders)

1. Latest corporation minutes with current stockholders listed
2. Copies of current stock certificates
3. Articles of incorporation & By-laws (signature authority)

C. Trusts

1. Copy of the trust agreement (personal information may be marked out)
2. Statement from the lessor showing acres, term of lease (years), and identification of acres (i.e., tax map key number)

5. Form CCC-502 Farm Operating Plan for Payment Eligibility

Please see your local FSA county office to fill out the CCC-502 form appropriate for your operation.

6. Form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land & Wetland Conservation Certification

For assistance in completing form AD-1026, please contact your local FSA county office.

7. Form NRCS-CPA-38 Request for Certified Wetland Determination / Delineation

Fill in information as outlined on the form NRCS-CPA-38. The landowner must sign the form that will allow NRCS entry onto the property to determine the extent of wetlands on the land. A sample NRCS-CPA-38 cover letter is provided in the application packet for your use if needed.

8. Form CCC-526 Payment Eligibility Average Adjusted Gross Income Certification

For assistance in completing form CCC-526, please contact your local FSA county office.

9. Form SF-1199a Electronic Financial Transfer

For direct deposit into bank of your choice

10. Forms CCC-501A and CCC-502 Entity & Joint Operation Information**11. Other Forms As Needed Include: CCC-36 Payment Assignment**

To allow payments to be made to other individuals other than yourself (*if desired*), **FSA-211** For Power Of Attorney (*if needed*), and **CCC-501A & 502** Entity & Joint Operation Information.

Check out our web site to obtain forms and additional details:

<http://www.pr.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>